

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A package for preserving a medical device or the like comprising an external capsule and a cap sealingly engaging the external capsule, wherein a means is provided for releasingly connecting the medical device with the cap upon removing the cap and the medical device from the external capsule.

29. (New) The package according to claim 28, further comprising an ampoule for holding the medical device, wherein the means is adapted for releasingly connecting the ampoule with the cap upon removing the cap and the ampoule from the external capsule.

30. (New) The package according to claim 29, wherein the means for releasingly connecting the ampoule with the cap comprises a snap coupling between the ampoule and the cap, the snap coupling being releasable in an axial direction of the external capsule.

31. (New) The package according to claim 29, wherein the means for releasingly connecting the ampoule with the cap comprises an actuation knob.

32. (New) The package according to claim 29, wherein the cap is threadingly engaged with the external capsule and includes a downward extension which, in an assembled state of the package, protrudes between the external capsule and the ampoule to snap engage into a groove of the ampoule.

33. (New) The package according to claim 29, wherein the cap comprises a top portion made of a resilient or elastic material which is in contact with the ampoule, such that upon axially depressing a knob operatively connected to the top portion of the cap the downward extension of the cap becomes disengaged from a circular groove of the ampoule, thereby separating the ampoule from the cap.

34. (New) The package according to claim 29, wherein the cap comprises a first engagement means for engaging a knob, which is accommodated within the cap, and for selectively engaging the ampoule upon a downward movement of the cap in respect to the axis of the external capsule, such that the knob and the ampoule are both engaged, and wherein preferably upon the downward movement of the cap the knob protrudes from the cap, such that upon depressing a knob the first engagement means separates from the ampoule.

35. (New) The package according to claim 29, further comprising a membrane provided in respect to the top opening the external capsule.

36. (New) The package according to claim 34, further comprising a membrane provided in respect to the top opening the external capsule.

37. (New) The package according to claim 36, wherein the membrane is perforated and cut by a snap mechanism provided on the first engagement means, the snap mechanism perforating and cutting the membrane upon the downward movement of the cap, the snap mechanism further providing for coupling with the ampoule upon the downward movement of the cap.

38. (New) A package for preserving a medical device or the like comprising an external capsule, a cap sealingly engaging the external capsule, and a transport means surrounded by the cap and extending therein, wherein the transport means is adapted for releasably connecting to the medical device.

39. (New) The package according to claim 38, further comprising an ampoule for holding the medical device, wherein the transport means is adapted for releasably connecting to the ampoule.

40. (New) The package according to claim 39, wherein the transport means comprises a press-fit mechanism which releasably engages both the ampoule and the external capsule.

41. (New) The package according to claim 40 wherein the transport means slidably accommodates a knob which, in the closed state of the package, contacts the ampoule.

42. (New) The package according to claim 41, wherein the press-fit mechanism becomes separated from the ampoule when the knob is actuated in a downward axial direction of the external capsule.

43. (New) The package according to claim 38, wherein the transport means defines a seal between the opening of the external capsule and the cap in the assembled state of the device.

44. (New) A package for preserving a medical device or the like comprising an external capsule, a cap engaging the external capsule and a sealing means closing an open end of the capsule, wherein a means is provided for releasingly connecting the medical device with the cap upon removing the cap and the medical device from the external capsule.

45. (New) The package according to claim 44, further comprising an ampoule for holding the medical device, wherein the means is adapted for releasingly connecting the ampoule with the cap upon removing the cap and the ampoule from the external capsule.

46. (New) The package according to claim 45, wherein the means for releasingly connecting the ampoule with the cap comprises a snap coupling between the ampoule and the cap, the snap coupling being releasable in an axial direction of the external capsule.

47. (New) The package according to claim 45, wherein the means for releasingly connecting the ampoule with the cap comprises an actuation knob.

48. (New) The package according to claim 45, wherein the cap engages the external capsule by means of a bayonet lock, and wherein the sealing means comprises a membrane.

49. (New) The package according to claim 47, wherein the knob is slidingly received in an opening of the cap and is held in place by a lock mechanism formed of a groove on the knob with a flange on the cap, when the package is in the closed state.

50. (New) The package according to claim 47, wherein the cap comprises a first means for engaging the ampoule upon a downward movement of the cap in respect to the axis of the external capsule, such that the knob, which is snappingly held in place in the cap, and the ampoule are mutually engaged, and wherein the knob protrudes from the cap, such that upon depressing a knob the first means separates from the ampoule.

51. (New) The package according to claim 50, wherein the ampoule has a tip end portion which engages the first means upon the completion of the downward movement of the cap, such that the tip end portion contacts the lower surface knob.

52. (New) The package according to claim 50, wherein the cap further comprises a perforating and cutting means for perforating and cutting the sealing means upon the downward movement of the cap in respect to the axis of the external capsule, and wherein preferably the perforating and cutting means is slightly longer than the first means, such that during the downward movement the perforating and cutting action thereof occurs prior to the engagement of the first means.

53. (New) The package according to claim 29, wherein the medical device is a dental implant which is held within the ampoule.

54. (New) The package according to claim 39, wherein the medical device is a dental implant which is held within the ampoule.

55. (New) The package according to claim 45, wherein the medical device is a dental implant which is held within the ampoule.

56. (New) The package according to claim 28, further comprising a fluid, such as an electrolyte or an aqueous solution, within the external capsule.

57. (New) The package according to claim 38, further comprising a fluid, such as an electrolyte or an aqueous solution, within the external capsule.

58. (New) The package according to claim 44, further comprising a fluid, such as an electrolyte or an aqueous solution, within the external capsule.

59. (New) The package according to claim 28, wherein the external capsule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the ampoule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the cap is made of high density polyethylene or low density polyethylene.

60. (New) The package according to claim 38, wherein the external capsule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the ampoule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the cap is made of high density polyethylene or low density polyethylene.

61. (New) The package according to claim 44, wherein the external capsule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the ampoule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the cap is made of high density polyethylene or low density polyethylene.